



SITUATION SUMMARY

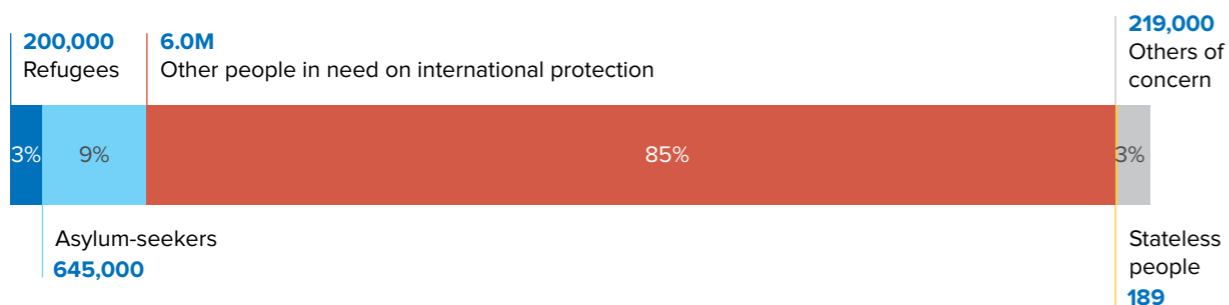
After fleeing Venezuela in 2019, Nelson Zerpa and his family rebuilt their lives in Tacna, Peru. Today, Nelson continues working to provide for his family and says the warm welcome from the community has helped them feel at home. © UNHCR/Jaime Giménez

Venezuela situation

Country operations involved in the response: Argentina multi-country office, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama multi-country office, Peru, United States multi-country office, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

2025 year-end population figures

7.1 million Venezuelan forcibly displaced in neighbouring countries



Context

In 2025, Venezuelan displacement was marked by increasingly fragmented and dynamic mobility patterns, with cross-border movement, stabilization in host countries and emerging return intentions occurring simultaneously. These shifts were driven not only by conditions inside the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, but also by migration, protection, and inclusion policies adopted by host countries across Latin America and the Caribbean.

The majority of displaced Venezuelans continued to reside in Latin America and the Caribbean, supported by strong legal frameworks and community solidarity. By the end of 2025, more than 6.9 million Venezuelan refugees and migrants were living in the 17 countries covered by the [Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela \(R4V\)](#). Regional distribution patterns shifted notably during the year. Northbound mixed movements declined sharply, influenced by stricter enforcement and new regional and bilateral measures. Crossings through the Darién fell from 302,000 in 2024 to just over 3,000 in 2025, while more than 20,500 people crossed from Panama to Colombia, reflecting a significant recalibration of mobility trends.

Several countries expanded protection and regularization measures. Since 2021, Colombia has granted temporary protection status to more than 1.9 million Venezuelans. Ecuador issued over 103,000 temporary stay certificates since 2022. Brazil recognized more than 139,000 Venezuelans as refugees and granted over 571,000 residency permits since 2018. Uruguay introduced prima facie recognition procedures, identifying nearly 4,000 Venezuelans for protection in the first year of implementation in 2024.

Despite these efforts, tighter enforcement measures, restricted access to asylum, and limited regular pathways have left many Venezuelans without legal status. Up to 2.3 million people remain in this position because of complex visa requirements, high fees and administrative barriers, increasing exposure to exploitation and limiting access to essential services. At the same time, many displaced Venezuelans want to stay where they are, underscoring the need to strengthen and

expand commitments by governments and the private sector towards local integration and other solutions. UNHCR's engagement with refugee-led organizations has also added significant value, supporting more inclusive, sustainable and community-driven responses across the region.

Within Venezuela, the operational context in 2025 continued to be shaped by a complex political and socioeconomic environment, affecting household resilience and access to basic rights and services. Certain groups – including children, Indigenous communities and individuals without documentation – faced persistent barriers to civil registration, education, health care and social programmes. During 2025, early signs of economic stabilization – alongside improved access to goods, services and income-generating opportunities – contributed to reduced outward movements and increased return trends. Venezuelan authorities reported that 1.2 million people have returned in recent years, underscoring the need for sustained reintegration support in communities receiving large numbers of returnees.

UNHCR in action

As returns to Venezuela increased, UNHCR adapted its protection presence to maintain core services despite severe funding cuts. In 2025, UNHCR contributed to the broader humanitarian response that reached 2.1 million people, while directly assisting nearly 260,000 individuals – 52% of them returnees – with protection and solutions across 37 municipalities.

Key results under the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP)

- 20,800+** people received financial aid
- 15,600+** people received in-kind assistance
- 35,100+** people received shelter and housing assistance
- 58,400+** people supported with access to water and sanitation services

Activities focused on supporting reintegration, facilitating access to documentation and civil registration, and improving access to rights through localized service delivery and community resilience initiatives. To this end, UNHCR shifted towards the establishment of Protection Service Hubs, designed to complement the response capacity of local authorities and community-based partners. These hubs provided essential protection services, including information and legal counselling, prevention of and response to gender-based violence, child protection services, and community-based interventions to strengthen social cohesion and resilience.

In Colombia, UNHCR provided 53,900 people with guidance on rights, regular stay and procedures through 18 points of attention and six mobile units. A further 6,407 households received tailored support to navigate complex processes and address protection needs. Through 35 registration points, UNHCR also supported the implementation of Temporary Protection Status (TPS), benefiting 1.9 million Venezuelans as well as the *PEP Tutor* – a government-led special stay permit aiming to regularize 300,000 legal representatives, or

guardians of children holding TPS in Colombia, the majority of whom are Venezuelan.

Socioeconomic inclusion efforts expanded across the region. In Brazil, for example, Operation Welcome supported the relocation of more than 156,000 Venezuelans, with UNHCR facilitating both protection-oriented and employment-based relocations. Across operations in the Americas, socioeconomic inclusion initiatives benefited nearly 48,000 people, including Venezuelans and others such as refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs, host communities, and stateless persons.

Under the RMRP 2025, UNHCR and partners provided multipurpose cash assistance to more than 20,800 people, distributed essential non-food items to over 15,600 refugees and migrants, and delivered shelter and housing support to over 35,100 individuals. More than 27,000 health consultations were facilitated through UNHCR-supported service providers, while over 58,400 people benefited from improved access to water, sanitation, and hygiene services.

Coordination and partnerships

UNHCR plays a lead and catalytic coordination role across the Americas through regional platforms such as R4V, the Quito Process, and the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS). These mechanisms support joint planning, advocacy and resource mobilization. They also help turn regional commitments into national plans on asylum, regularization and inclusion, while promoting consistent, evidence-based messaging on protection and solutions.

Regional cooperation remained critical to preserving protection space and supporting the sustainable integration of Venezuelans across Latin America and the Caribbean. UNHCR and IOM continued to support the Quito Process as joint Secretariat, promoting a more coherent, government-led regional response, including through asylum capacity-building and the advancement of socioeconomic inclusion. Regional coordination was further reinforced through implementation of the Chile Plan of Action and the launch of its Support Platform, strengthening a whole-of-society approach to protection and solutions across the region.

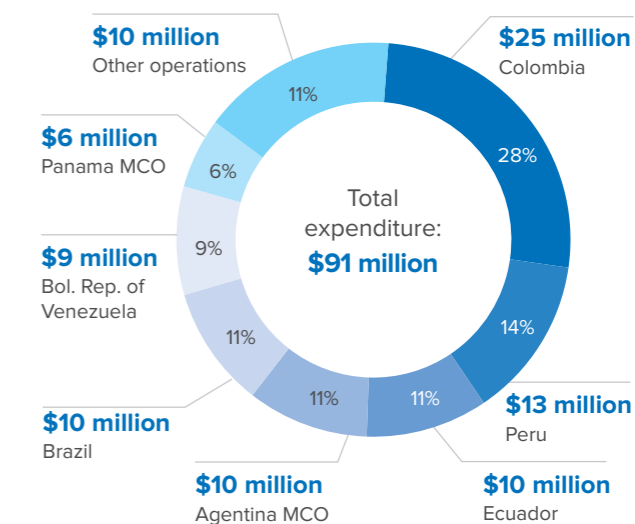
Use of flexible funding

The regional response remained severely underfunded in 2025, receiving less than 24% of the required amount. This shortfall sharply limited access to basic services and livelihoods for millions of displaced people. Flexible funding was critical in enabling UNHCR to sustain essential protection and solutions activities, rapidly reallocate resources to underfunded priority areas, maintain core services for refugees and vulnerable populations, and bridge critical gaps while earmarked funding remained limited or delayed.

Looking ahead, R4V's 2026 plan aims to assist 1.52 million refugees and migrants across 17 countries. However, needs remain vast, and robust, predictable funding is essential to prevent further deterioration in protection and humanitarian conditions.

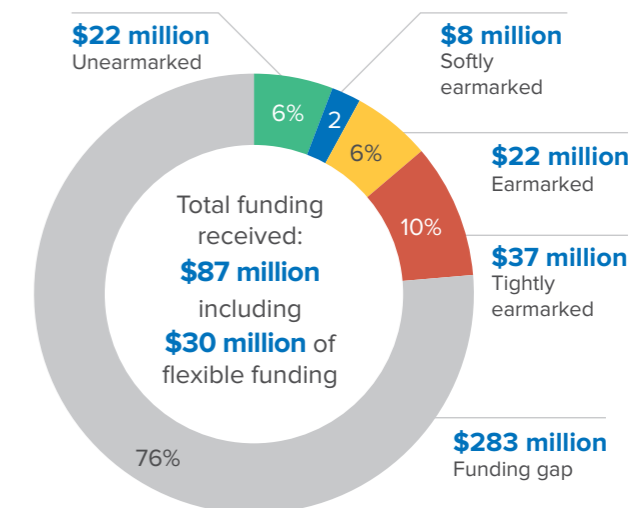
Financial overview

Expenditure by operation

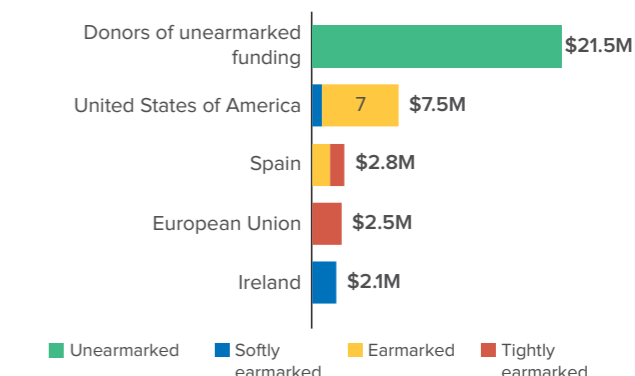


Funding received (USD)

In 2025, UNHCR required a total of **\$370 million** to address the Venezuela situation but received only **24%** of that amount.



Top 5 donors in 2025



Voluntary contributions from all other donors, carry-over and other adjustments were \$511 million.

Postcode Loterji helps Venezuelan refugees access legal help and medical care



© UNHCR/Berber van Beek

The Postcode Loterij in the Netherlands contributed €1.76 million (\$1.9 million) to enable UNHCR to support nearly 10,000 vulnerable people in the Caribbean islands of Aruba and Curaçao from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and other countries, providing legal aid, free medical care and essential services. Relative to their total populations, Aruba and Curaçao host one of the highest shares of people in need of international protection in the world. Many live without documentation and face a high risk of exploitation. After several local partners ceased operations due to funding shortfalls, the Postcode Loterij contribution helped maintain assistance through the end of the year.